



Arizona School Facilities Board

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Governor of Arizona
Jane Dee Hull

Interim Executive Director
Edward E. Boot

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Dear Superintendent:

I appreciate all the calls, letters, and e-mails of congratulations during the past few months regarding my new role with the School Facilities Board. As Director, I intend to continue stressing a cooperative and service oriented approach to the implementation of this program as we endeavor to fulfill the requirements of the Students FIRST Law. Our priorities will be to work to complete the Deficiencies Correction program, construct awarded new schools, and administer the Building Renewal fund while overseeing the various aspects of this program. I look forward to your continued cooperation and support as we mutually work to improve our state's school facilities.

We will continue to provide this monthly SFB letter however it is my intent to condense the information and reduce the length of the correspondence. We will also provide you an after action report of the monthly SFB Board meeting for information purposes and continue utilizing the SFB web-site for general news and information. Below are a few items of significance regarding the SFB that may affect you, and that hopefully will be of interest to your district.

Appointment of New Board Members

We want to welcome both Mr. Kevin McCarthy, of Phoenix, and Mr. Forrest Metz, of Tucson, as our Board's newest members. Kevin is the President of the Arizona Taxpayers Association (ATRA), an independent taxpayer organization. Forrest is President and CEO of Urban Engineering, Inc. and will represent the Small Business Owners of the State of Arizona. We are pleased to have both of these qualified individuals join our Board.

New SFB Staff Additions

John Woolfenden has joined the SFB as our new technology program manager and comes to us from Red Hat Global Professional Services. He has extensive project management and consulting experience and is our senior technical resource responsible for the implementation of our technology network infrastructure program. Joining John will be Jim Hollis, as our technology project Specialist for the networking project. Jim's background includes teaching mathematics and experience as a computer systems consultant.

Kathleen English is our new Public Information Officer. She recently relocated from Massachusetts where she was a practicing attorney. She attended Boston College and the University of Massachusetts where she received an undergraduate degree in History with a minor in Education. Kathleen received her J.D degree from Southern New England School of Law, and will be a valued addition to our staff.

Carol Civiello is a new district liaison replacing Ron Erps (who has joined the technology staff and is co-coordinating the JOC electrical work). She is a licensed architect with extensive school construction and project management experience, and has worked for the Washington School District and in Colorado, at Jefferson County School District for 9 1/2 years.

Laura Kortekaas is our new Budget Analyst, hired to assist Deputy Director John Arnold with the deficiency corrections program and facilitate the implementation of the new construction Lease-to-Own program. Laura is from Chicago, obtained her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her Master's degree in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and recently relocated to the Phoenix area from Kansas City, Missouri where she was employed as a budget analyst in the Office of Management and Budget for the City.

Annual Reports

All districts should have received the Annual Square Footage reports, which were mailed on July 1st. These should have been submitted to Amber Peterson by September 1st even if there were no changes to report. All Renovation, Capital Plan, and Expenditure reports were e-mailed to districts on July 10th and 11th, all of which were due September 1st except the Expenditure reports, which are due October 15th. If you have not yet submitted your reports, or did not receive them via mail or e-mail, please contact Amber Peterson immediately at apeterson@sfb.state.az.us or 602-542-6736.

Also of interest - In the 2002 Legislative Session, HB 2710, a new requirement to Students FIRST was created where all School Districts are required to provide the SFB annually by September 30th, a five year Building renewal plan and an annual preventative maintenance report. Currently, the SFB is developing the process and formulating the required material and the reports are not due at this time. We will notify you when the reports are due, and will provide a minimum 30-day notification upon completion of the desired format. We have formed a study group of 12 district representatives to assist us on the PM requirement, and anticipate covering this subject at our next SFB Workshop, scheduled for mid-November.

Deficiencies Correction Update

As of August 31st, we have 52% of all deficiencies correction projects either in construction or complete, and have made significant progress in the past 90 days. Recently, we sent a letter to 27 districts that are lagging behind in their deficiency work, and requested the Superintendent's personal involvement. We are also communicating to all districts with some concerns we have about district delays, and the possible ramifications of this action. Please feel free to contact your liaison, Tim Brand, or me if you have questions in this matter.

SFB Workshop

Speaking of the next SFB workshop, the School Facilities Board will be sponsoring a workshop on November 21, 2002, information regarding time and location to be announced. As you know, these sessions are always lively, fun-filled, and informative. Some of the numerous topics to be featured at this event will be the Lease-to-Own Program for New School Construction; Legislative Issues; the 5 Year Building Renewal Plan; Building Maintenance and Inspections; Quality Products; Project Management for construction of New Schools; and a Deficiencies Corrections Update including technology.

Deficiency Corrections Project Management Fees for District Added Work

The School Facilities Board (SFB) has a statutory responsibility to complete the identified “deficiency corrections” projects at all schools by June 30, 2004 provided the project construction award is made by June 30, 2003. The SFB has nine project management firms under contract to coordinate the over 6,000 projects throughout the state, and the SFB pays for these services as part of the “deficiency corrections” program. On many occasions, school districts have requested additional work within the SFB project that is above the necessary requirements to meet the minimum guidelines. We have authorized school districts to add their discretionary scope increases to the “deficiency correction” projects with two conditions:

1. The school district is responsible to pay for the construction cost of the added scope.
2. The school district is responsible to pay for the architect and project management cost of the added scope.

The SFB can only include this added district work if it does not jeopardize the completion of the required “deficiency correction” project, and the district agrees to pay for the work and the associated fees as per the above conditions. All School District added work is bound by the SFB contract for design, construction, and project management. If you have questions on this, you may contact Tim Brand, SFB Deputy Director of Facilities, at 602 542-6143.

An Update on the Qwest Networking and Internet Connectivity Project

The SFB and Qwest have reached an agreement on completing the networking and Internet connectivity project after lengthy discussions and a five-month delay in the project. The new agreement increases the state’s price by \$40 million and makes this work a fixed price contract while continuing the same specifications and requirements for performance. Qwest has begun ramping up for resuming activity, and your district will be receiving notification regarding timelines within the next few weeks. A few changes have been made to this agreement:

1. District space will not be included, except for the district aggregation point (usually the district office), as the deficiencies program does not cover district space.
2. Effective September 30, 2002 the SFB will no longer pay for the network monitoring or the extended maintenance on equipment and cabling. All items will receive the original equipment manufacturer and/or the cabling installation warranty.

Archeological Study for New Construction Land

It is currently taking 6-8 months for a district to complete the SFB land process, which is a significant increase (approximately 3 months) as a result of the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) mandate that the School Facilities Board produce a detailed archeological study on every parcel of land that the SFB acquires. The archeological study is also required for land that is already owned by the district when the district receives funding from the SFB for construction. In fact, the SHPO rules and regulations apply to all state agencies purchasing land and constructing facilities.

The SHPO archeological “pedestrian study” of the property is usually completed within 30 days and a written report is provided to both SHPO and the SFB. SHPO has 30 days to provide a written response, and in many cases, SHPO requires further study of the land parcel.

Depending on the magnitude of the additional study requirement, this could delay the potential SFB land approval by an additional 2 to 3 months.

Future SFB Board Meetings

Listed below are the dates and times of the remaining 2002 School Facilities Board meetings. Please check our web site for specific locations and addresses:

October 3 rd	10:00AM	Apache Junction Unified School District
November 13 th	1:00 PM	Paradise Valley Unified School District (Annual SFB Planning Session 1:00 – 5:00)
November 14 th	10:00 AM	Deer Valley Unified School District
December 5 th	10:00 AM	Crane Elementary School District

With the State's Budget difficulties we are all feeling the pressure to work faster, smarter, and more effectively while reducing costs in our departments, schools and districts. As you may know, there will most likely be a special legislative session after the election, and we will keep you advised regarding the agenda and possible implications this has for all of us. In the meantime, please place a high priority on continuing to move forward on your deficiency work as we strive to award the remaining 3,000 deficiency projects.

Lastly,

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!!

Edward E. Boot

Edward E. Boot
Interim Executive Director